



Media Release

Thursday 22 September 2016

## Join a walk over Spring

Spring is here and Selwyn residents can explore our district, enjoy some sunshine and get fit by taking part in The Breeze Walking Festival.

The festival starts on Saturday 24 September, and has over 50 free walks planned throughout Selwyn, Christchurch and Waimakariri. It runs until Sunday 9 October, taking in the school holidays and there are walks to suit all abilities and ages, including kids.

Two walks are taking place in Selwyn during the festival:

- The Rakaia Gorge Experience (Tuesday 27 September, 10am-4pm). Enjoy magnificent views of the gorge (pictured) and learn about the area from a Department of Conservation guide. This 11km walk is suitable for fit individuals, but not suitable for buggies or wheelchairs
- Harts Creek Sneak (Thursday 29 September, 10am-12pm). Meet at 31 Lower Lake Road and bring your binoculars on a 2km easy walk to discover local birdlife including swans, pukeko, Canada geese, ducks, white heron and pied stilts. The walk is suitable for buggies.

Booking is required to join both free walks – to book please phone 347 2719 or email [events@selwyn.govt.nz](mailto:events@selwyn.govt.nz). No dogs please, on either walk.

“The festival is a great chance for Selwyn residents to join a local walk or explore other areas in Canterbury, while at the same time improving their fitness,” says Selwyn District Council Recreation Advisor Dave Tippet.

Selwyn residents can also join walks further afield in Christchurch and Waimakariri. Planned events include walks along the Avon River, at Mona Vale, in ancient native forests at Riccarton Bush and many more locations. A Great Dog Walk will take place at Roto Kohatu Lakes and an Orienteering Treasure Hunt for kids is planned at Halswell Quarry.

To find out more about the walks taking place as part of the festival see [www.walkingfestival.co.nz](http://www.walkingfestival.co.nz) or pick up a guide from a Selwyn Library.

Ends

Photos attached: The Rakaia Gorge and Hart’s Creek are two Selwyn walks people can join as part of *The Breeze Walking Festival*

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